

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 DRC-01 /110 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8821

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16314

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, JA, LY

SUBJECT: JAPANESE BIDDING ON LIBYAN CRUDE

REF: STATE 246095

1. FORMIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRGEN OKAWARA CALLED ME EARLY EVENING DECEMBER 18 TO INFORM ME OF QTE SOME MOVEMENT UNQTE WITHIN GOJ CONCERNING JAPANESE BIDDING FOR LIBYAN CRUDE. IKAWARA STATED THAT FORMIN WOULD BE ADVISING JAPANESE CHARGE IN TRIPOLI THAT LOWER HOUSE DIET MEMBER WATARU KANNO WILL SERVE AS CONTACT AND INTERMEDIARY, APPARENTLY ON BEHALF OF INTERESTED JAPANESE OIL COMPANIES, IN CONNECTION WITH BIDDING ON LIBYAN CRUDE. CHARGE WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO SO INFORM LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.

2. OKAWARA THEN STATED THAT GOJ HAS NO INTENTION OF ENCOURAGING PURCHASE OF OIL QTE WHICH IS INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES UNQTE (I.E., TITLE TO WHICH IS DISPUTED). GOJ IS TAKING POSITION, THEREFORE, THAT SHOULD ANY JAPANESE COMPANY SUBMIT BID, IT MUST DO SO ON OWN RESPONSIBILITY QTE SINCE GOJ NOT CURRENTLY IN POSITION TO INTERVENE IN THESE TRANSACTIONS UNQTE.

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3. OKAWARA EXPLAINED THAT KANNO HAD HEADED PRIVATE ECONOMIC

MISSION TO LIBYA WHERE HE HAD MET VARIOUS GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND RECEIVED OFFERS OF OIL. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT KANNO HAD BEEN IN FOREFRONT OF THOSE URGING THAT JAPANESE COMPANIES SEEK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LIBYAN OFFER OF OIL. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS, OKAWARA STATED THAT KANNO, WHO NOW IN TOKYO, WILL ACT AS ADVISER TO PRIVATE JAPANESE COMPANIES. ALTHOUGH KANNO NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK OR ACT FOR GOJ, OKAWARA EXPLAINED, HE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH MITI AND IS FULLY AWARE OF POSITION BEING TAKEN BY GOJ ON THIS MATTER (PARA 2 ABOVE). OKAWARA STATED THAT KANNO INSISTS HE WILL NOT ENGAGE IN PURCHASE OF HOT OIL, BUT WHEN I QUESTIONED HIM ON THIS POINT, OKAWARA CONCEDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW SUBSTANCE OF KANNO'S DISCUSSIONS WITH LIBYAN LEADERS, WHAT TYPE OF OIL HE HAD BEEN OFFERED OR WHAT TYPE OF BIDS MIGHT BE MADE BY JAPANESE COMPANIES.

4. OKAWARA STATED HE PROVIDING ME THIS INFORMATION ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY THAT PRESS MIGHT INACCURATELY REPORT GOJ POSITION. (HE EVIDENTLY CONCERNED THAT PRESS WILL STATE OR IMPLY THAT GOJ HAS AUTHORIZED TRANSACTIONS IN LIBYAN OIL). I THANKED OKAWARA FOR INFORMATION BUT DID NOT COMMENT OTHER THAN TO REITERATE THAT WE HAD URGED OTHER GOVERNMENTS NOT TO PURCHASE HOT OIL.
SHOESMITH

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